



Public Arts Commission Meeting

April 1, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Fridley Civic Campus 7071 University Avenue NE

Agenda

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of March 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes

New Business

2. Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program Updates and Artist Selection Process Discussion
3. Discussion on VARA Waiver Requirement for MNDoT Partnership
4. Sylvan Hills Community Art Project Update
5. Art Trail Site Discussion

Old Business

Other Items

Adjournment

Accessibility Notice:

- If you need free interpretation or translation assistance, please contact City staff.
- Si necesita ayuda de interpretación o traducción gratis, comuníquese con el personal de la ciudad.
- Yog tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus los sis txhais ntaub ntawv dawb, ces thov tiv tauj rau Lub Nroog cove neeg ua hauj lwm.
- Haddii aad u baahan tahay tarjumaad bilaash ah ama kaalmo tarjumaad, fadlan la xiriir shaqaalaha Magaalada.

Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in any City of Fridley services, programs or activities. Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons who require auxiliary aids should contact CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov or (763) 572-3450.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: April 1, 2026
Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Jesslyn Quiram, Engineering Technician
Title: Approval of March 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Background

Prepared minutes are presented to the Commission for review and approval. Once approved by the Commission, minutes will be added to an upcoming City Council meeting to be reviewed and approved by Council.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the meeting minutes

Attachments and Other Resources

1. PA_ Commission Minutes- March 4 2026

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.



Public Arts Commission Meeting

March 4, 2026

6:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Ave. NE, Fridley, MN 55432

Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Collins called the Public Arts Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present

Josh Collins, Chair
Maija Sedzielarz, Vice Chair
Ryan Fugleberg
Kara Ruwart
Gary Swanson
Frank Sedzielarz

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Jesslyn Quiram, Engineering Technician
Councilmember Ann Bolkcom

1. Approve Public Arts Commission Minutes for February 4, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Ruwart to approve the February 4, 2026 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

2. Art Trail Policy First Draft

Staff presented a draft of a Rotating Art Trail Pilot Program policy document. The commission asked for additional information and clarity on the use of artificial intelligence by artists and asked for some definition of how the program impact would be measured. Additional notes for the second draft include:

- Include a \$1,000 stipend for a two-year installation agreement
- Recommendation to not take a commission for artwork sold while on exhibit. Sold artwork would be removed only at the end of the agreed period for public exhibition.
- A long-term goal for structuring the program would be to stagger years for agreements so that each year artwork is being changed.

- Commission recommends that the call for art would be open to all with no residency requirements.

Staff was asked to make revisions and bring the document to a future meeting for further refinement. No formal action was taken on this item.

3. Commons Park Sculpture Project Update

Staff presented updated detailed design work from artist Ken McCall for the Manoomin sculpture. The commission asked for clarification on the material selection for the wild rice element of the sculpture, if the concrete base would be covered or exposed, and if the artist had any thoughts on the landscaping selection. Staff confirmed with the artist that colored acrylic would be included in the materials as was shown in the concept, the concrete base could be covered or exposed, and the artist approves of the planned landscaping around the sculpture.

No formal action was taken on this item.

4. Springbrook Nature Center Art Bench Project

Staff presented an update to the Commission on a grant application that was submitted by nature center staff to the Xcel Energy Foundation for funding to purchase a unique bench made from recycled wind turbine blades. The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation has agreed to provide additional funding for this project, which may include one or several of these benches. The bench designs allow for application of murals or vinyl wraps and would make a nice addition to Fridley's overall public art program.

No formal action was taken on this item.

5. Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program Implementation

Staff presented updates on the call for art that was made public for the utility box art wrap program. The call for art information is housed on the public art page of the City website and a submission form was created for artists to use to upload artwork and application materials.

Commissioner Frank Sedzielarz asked that the Commission add discussion and additional information on the Minnesota Department of Transportation VARA waiver that they require artists to sign for projects in their right of way.

The Commission discussed plans to share the call for art with their professional networks and community groups. Chair Collins indicated that he would share with local libraries and coffee shops, Vice-Chair Maija Sedzielarz indicated she would share with several local schools and Commissioner Ruwart expressed willingness to share with Creative Flow Art Center and several Fridley Public School sites.

No formal action was taken on this item.

Old Business

None

Other Items

Vice-chair Maija Sedzielarz shared a reminder for an upcoming March 16th concert performance by the Fridley City Band and Fridley High School Band and provided details on an upcoming March 13th Gala at Rum River Art Center, a sister gallery to Creative Flow Art Center.

Adjournment

Commissioner Gary Swanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The second was made by Commissioner Fugleberg. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Recording Secretary



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: April 1, 2026
Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Jesslyn Quiram, Engineering Technician
Title: Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program Updates and Artist Selection Process Discussion

Background

The call for art for the utility box wrap program is scheduled to remain open until April 22 and the call indicates that artist and design selection will be undertaken by the Public Arts Commission at the May 6 meeting.

Several discussion items include:

- Selection process for the May 6 meeting
- Process if fewer than six qualifying submissions are received
- Confirming process if digital layout work is required for youth submissions
- Review Selection Criteria:

Selection scoring shall be completed by the Public Arts Commission using a 100- point scale:

- Submitted artwork meets criteria (yes/no)
- Artist is a Fridley resident or is representing a Fridley-based non-profit organization, or provides a narrative detailing a strong connection to the City of Fridley (up to 30 points)
- Artwork is original and visually appealing to the evaluator (up to 30 points)
- Artwork is bold and inviting and will be visually impactful if applied to a utility box at the locations specified in the pilot program (up to 20 points)
- Subject of artwork celebrates Fridley and/or contains design elements identifiable to the evaluator as being unique to Fridley (up to 20 points)

Total: _____ / 100 possible points

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

1. City of Fridley Utility Box Art Wrap Program Guidelines

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.



Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program

Policies and Guidelines

Revised 3/4/2026





Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines

Section 1 – Policies and Guidelines

Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program Policies and Guidelines:

The City of Fridley Utility Box Art Program is a public art program designed to transform utility boxes in the City into distinctive works of art, creating a more welcoming, vibrant, and attractive landscape. The City is seeking original designs by artists to wrap up to six designated utility boxes in Fridley.

The City of Fridley has identified six utility boxes along University Ave. (HWY 47) that will serve as a pilot program for utility box wraps to assist in evaluation of an expanded program. The pilot program implementation period will span from 2025-2027 and will allow staff, Commissions and Council to evaluate the selection process, program impact and maintenance responsibilities prior to possible program expansion.

Program Objectives:

- Distinguish the City of Fridley as a community with a growing public art program.
- Provide access across the community to public art in a high-traffic area.
- Determine the feasibility of an expanded utility box art wrap program.
- Strengthen civic pride and engage residents in the arts.
- Enhance the lives of residents and visitors through exposure to the arts.
- Provide a public venue for artists and aspiring artists to showcase their talents and bring a sense of community and belonging by promoting community pride, civic engagement, and cultural history.

Application and Selection Guidelines:

- The Public Arts Commission will score submissions using established evaluation criteria.
- Individuals of all ages may apply but minors must have a legal guardian submit the application on their behalf.
- Fridley-based non-profit organizations may apply. Non-profit branding, if approved, may only be incorporated if it is secondary to the artistic design and is not promotional in nature.
- Submissions must be in the specified digital format and resolution. Minors who wish to submit artwork but are unable to convert the artwork to the specified format may apply, however the selection committee may choose not to select submissions of this nature if the cost to the City is prohibitive to convert submissions to the appropriate format.
- Artists must submit their application and design by the deadline date. No exceptions.
- Artists may submit more than one design for consideration.



Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines

- Selection scoring by the Public Arts Commission will include preference for Fridley residents and may include preference for youth submissions.
- Final acceptance of the recommendations for selection by the Public Arts Commission are subject to final approval by the Fridley City Council.
- Selection will be based on artistic excellence, creativity and originality with further consideration towards visual impact and contribution to sense of place in Fridley.
- Designs that feature content unique to a particular culture should be designed with representation from the specified cultural group. For example, a design inspired by Hmong or Somali cultural tradition should be submitted by an artist who identifies as part of that cultural group or should include a narrative of how the artist collaborated with cultural stakeholders in the development of the design.

Stipend and Incentives:

- City, in partnership with the Fridley Creative Arts Foundation, will provide a stipend of \$500 to selected artists or organizations.
- Program funding is provided by the non-profit Fridley Creative Arts Foundation.

Call for Art Process and Timeline:

- Application Submission Deadline: Thursday, April 22, 2026.
- Anticipated Selection of Artwork: May 6, 2026, meeting of Fridley Public Arts Commission.
- Final Design Notice to Artists: Prior to May 29, 2026.
- Artwork Installed: Summer 2026.
- Project timeline is subject to change.

Displaying the Artwork via the City's Website:

Representations of the selected artwork and/or photographs of the installed art wraps will be displayed on an interactive map of public art on the City of Fridley website and will include the location of the installation along with the name of the artist.

Artist Responsibilities:

- Submission of artwork implies artist's agreement to terms and conditions of the Fridley Utility Box Art Wrap Program.
- It is the responsibility of the artist to submit a complete application by the due date listed on the application, as well as to include all required artwork in the specified format.



Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines

- The artist must provide a final original design meeting the specifications pertaining to dimension, layout, resolution and content. The artwork may include an artist signature on one face of the design and may not be larger than 36 square inches on the final printed product.
- Artwork must be original to the artist and not created through the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Artificial intelligence shall be defined as any computer-generated content created through the use of generative machine learning systems that autonomously produce images, artwork, or design elements based on text prompts, image prompts, or other inputs, with minimal or no direct human rendering of the final visual output. All submissions imply a certificate of non-AI use.
- The artist shall transfer all rights, including ownership and copyright to the Minnesota Department of Transportation; however, the artist and City are provided with an irrevocable license for its non-commercial use and may reproduce the image or likenesses of the image for non-commercial purposes.
- The artist must execute all artist agreements with the City of Fridley and Minnesota Department of Transportation including a Waiver of Moral Rights Pursuant to Visual Artistic Rights Act (VARA).

Youth Submissions

- Youth submissions needing additional formatting must be clearly labeled as such.
- Youth art must be submitted by a legal guardian on behalf of the youth artist.
- Selected youth artists will have their \$500 stipend paid to their legal guardian.
- Youth art must comply with all the requirements of non-youth art, unless otherwise specified.
- The Public Arts Commission may limit the number of youth submissions selected if digital conversion or artwork is required.

City Responsibilities:

- Provide the template of the utility box layout for original artwork with specifications on accepted file types and resolution.
- The City will install the selected designs as a vinyl wrap and make the determination on which designs will be assigned to specific utility box locations.
- The City is responsible for the maintenance of artwork and expects a lifespan of 8-10 years for the applied vinyl wraps.
- The City has the right to copy, reproduce and adjust the artwork as it sees fit, in perpetuity.
- The City has the right to transfer ownership of the vinyl wrap and non-commercial rights for artwork to the Minnesota Department of Transportation if necessary to comply with requirement of the right of way for University Ave. (Hwy. 47)



Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines

- The City has the right to remove, replace or adjust the artwork as necessary for the duration of the project and/or the artwork.
- Coordinate inter-agency permitting and agreements related to installation, maintenance and removal/replacement of vinyl art wraps.
- The City has the discretion to select or reject any artwork.
- The City reserves the right to remove the artwork at any time.

Design Criteria and Guidelines:

- All artwork must be an original created by the artist.
- Art should be bright, bold, and inviting. Dark colors should be used sparingly due to the potential of overheating utility boxes. Artwork that contains majority of dark colors may not be considered.
- Art should be visible from a distance.
- Artwork must not contain:
 - Political statements or specific persons
 - Discriminatory imagery or language
 - References, symbols, or numerology specific to any religion
 - Copyrighted or trademarked material
 - Corporate or organizational branding (except for Fridley-based non-profit organizations)
 - Images of illegal activity
 - Content that is defamatory, violates applicable law, or is deemed offensive or controversial by the selection committee
 - Representation of traffic signals, signs, colors, or other imagery that may distract or confuse pedestrians or motorists
 - Attachments of objects other than the printed vinyl wrap to the utility box

Section 2 – Call for Art

The City of Fridley is seeking original artwork from area artists to replicate on vinyl wraps that will be installed on utility boxes along University Avenue in Fridley. This is a limited-scope pilot program in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Fridley Creative Arts Foundation. The Utility Box Art Wrap program is part of the City of Fridley's public art program, launched in 2024 to add character, vibrancy and sense of place to our community.

Eligibility: This opportunity is open to artists residing in or having a strong relationship with the City of Fridley. Examples may include working or attending school in Fridley or being affiliated with a Fridley-based non-profit organization. Preference will be given to current residents of the City of Fridley.



Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines

A variety of mediums will be considered if the artwork can be successfully converted to a digital file format. All non-youth submissions must be in the specified digital format detailed below. Artwork must be original to the artist and not created using Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Artists will receive \$500 for each artwork submission selected by the Fridley Public Arts Commission for use in the program. Final selection and disbursement of the \$500 award is contingent on the individual signing an artwork use agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Submission Materials:

- Artwork images
 - Artists may submit multiple images for consideration in digital format (.jpg, .pdf, .ai, .eps)
 - Youth artists age 17 or younger may submit artwork in alternative formats for consideration but selection may be contingent on discretion by the selection committee on the feasibility of conversion of artwork to digital format. For example, flat artwork on paper may be scanned and converted to digital format where three-dimensional artwork cannot be converted.
- Completed artist application using online form found at:
<https://www.fridleymn.gov/Community-Recreation/Public-Art-Program>
 - Include artist name, address, phone and email.
 - Include a narrative of 100 words or less describing the artist's connection to the City of Fridley (resident, non-profit affiliation, work, etc.)
 - Description of the artwork including title. If artwork contains elements specific to a specific ethnic or cultural group, include narrative of artist's background or collaboration demonstrating cultural representation.
- With questions regarding submissions or to arrange for alternative methods for file sharing, email both: Mike.Maher@FridleyMN.gov and Jesslyn.Quiram@FridleyMN.gov. Non-digital submissions must be delivered in person or by mail along with all requested information to: City of Fridley, 7071 University Avenue NE, Fridley, MN 55432.

Selection Process: Selections will be made by the Fridley Public Arts Commission and recommended to the Fridley City Council for final approval. Up to six submissions will be selected in total. Evaluation of submissions will be based on:

- Quality of artwork
- Originality and creativity of artwork
- Artwork contributing to sense of place in Fridley
- Applicability to the process of vinyl printing and application to the utility boxes selected for the pilot program



Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines

- Strength of narrative describing the artist's connection to the City of Fridley
- Youth submissions may receive preference if all criteria are met
- Artists will be notified of their selection prior to May 29, 2026

Selection Criteria

Selection scoring shall be completed by the Public Arts Commission using a 100- point scale:

- Submitted artwork meets criteria **(yes/no)**
- Artist is a Fridley resident or is representing a Fridley-based non-profit organization, or provides a narrative detailing a strong connection to the City of Fridley **(up to 30 points)**
- Artwork is original and visually appealing to the evaluator **(up to 30 points)**
- Artwork is bold and inviting and will be visually impactful if applied to a utility box at the locations specified in the pilot program **(up to 20 points)**
- Subject of artwork celebrates Fridley and/or contains design elements identifiable to the evaluator as being unique to Fridley **(up to 20 points)**

Total: _____ / 100 possible points

Program Resources:

Staff contacts for the Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program are:

Mike Maher
Parks and Recreation Director
(763)572-3575
Mike.Maher@FridleyMN.Gov

Jesslyn Quiram
Engineering Technician
(763)572-3546
Jesslyn.Quiram@FridleyMN.Gov



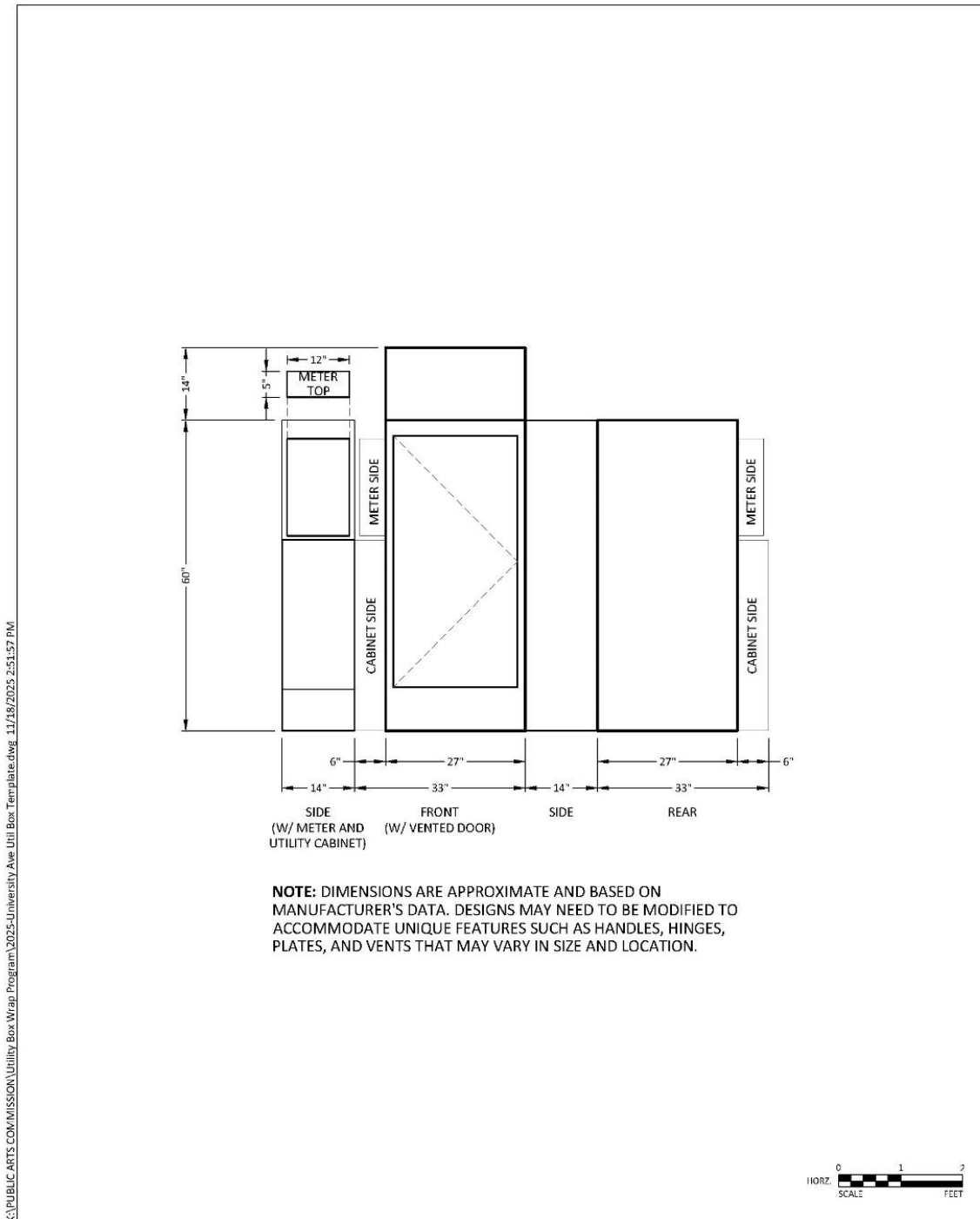
Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines

Design Specifications and Template:

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION
UTILITY BOX WRAP PILOT PROGRAM

Figure #1: Utility Box Template
November 2025





Utility Box Art Wrap Program

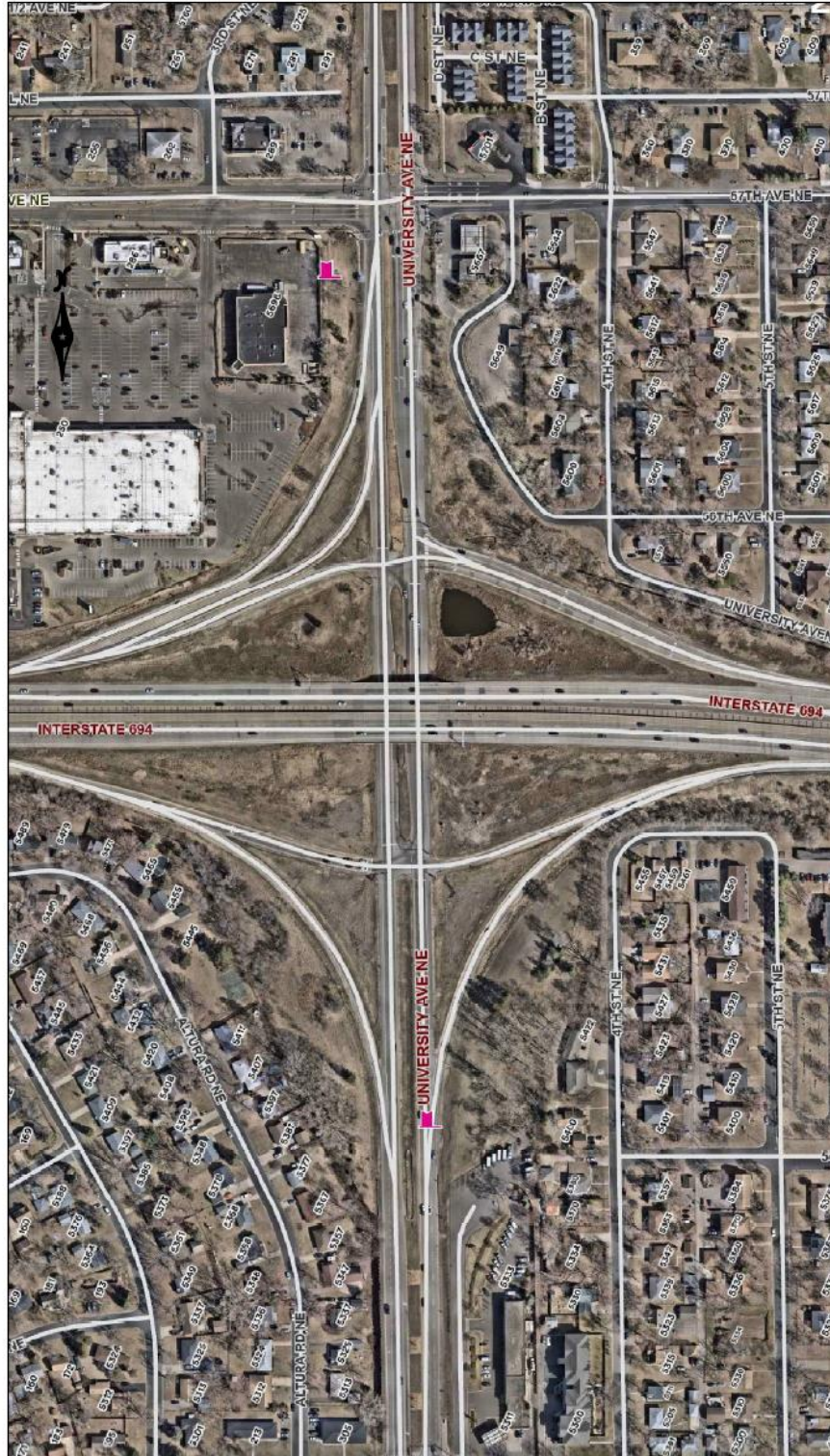
Policies
and Guidelines

Utility Box Locations:



UTILITY BOX LOCATIONS
1 OF 4

UNIVERSITY LIGHTING PROJECT
JULY 23, 2025





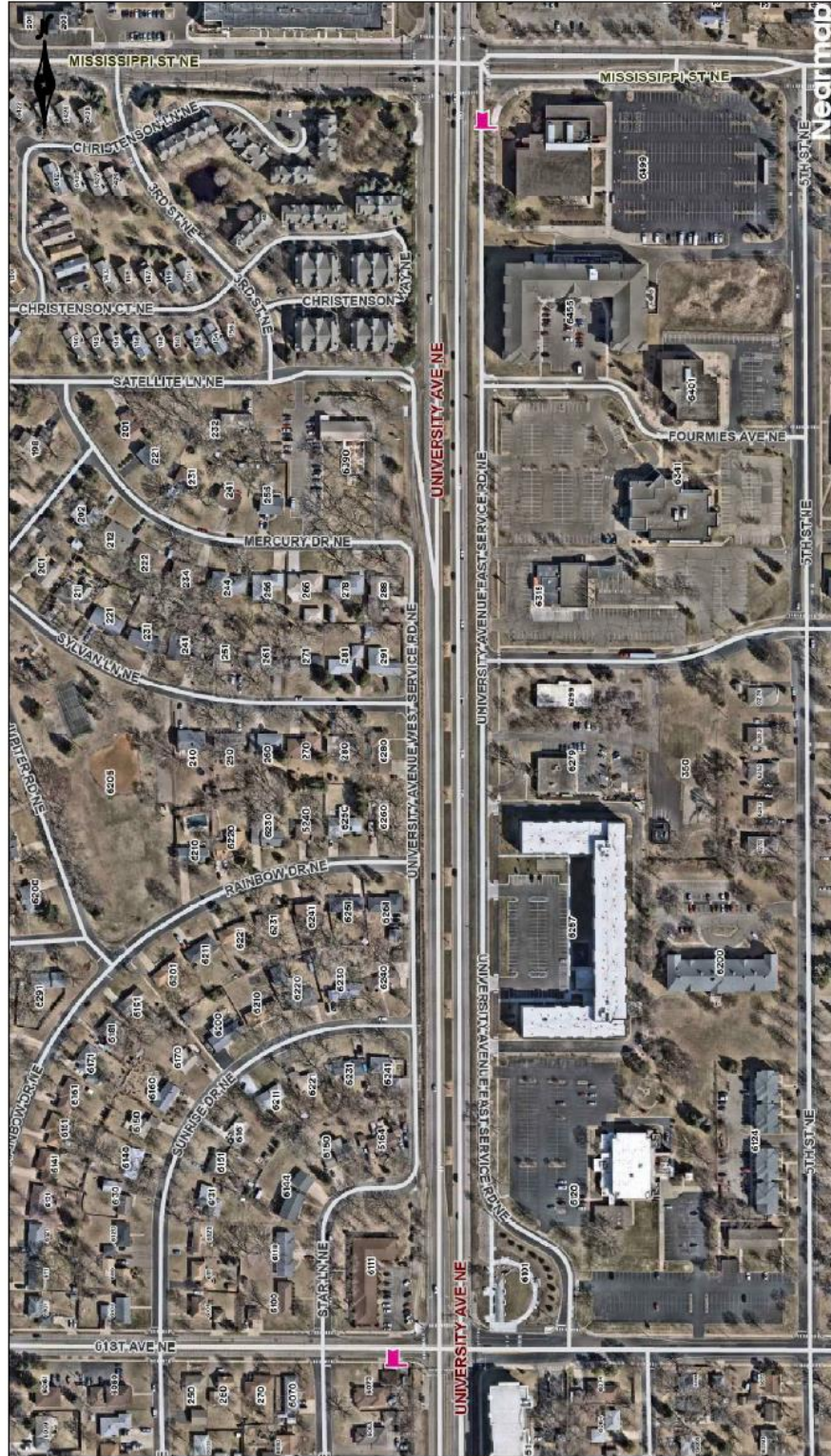
Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines



UTILITY BOX LOCATIONS
2 OF 4

UNIVERSITY LIGHTING PROJECT
JULY 23, 2025





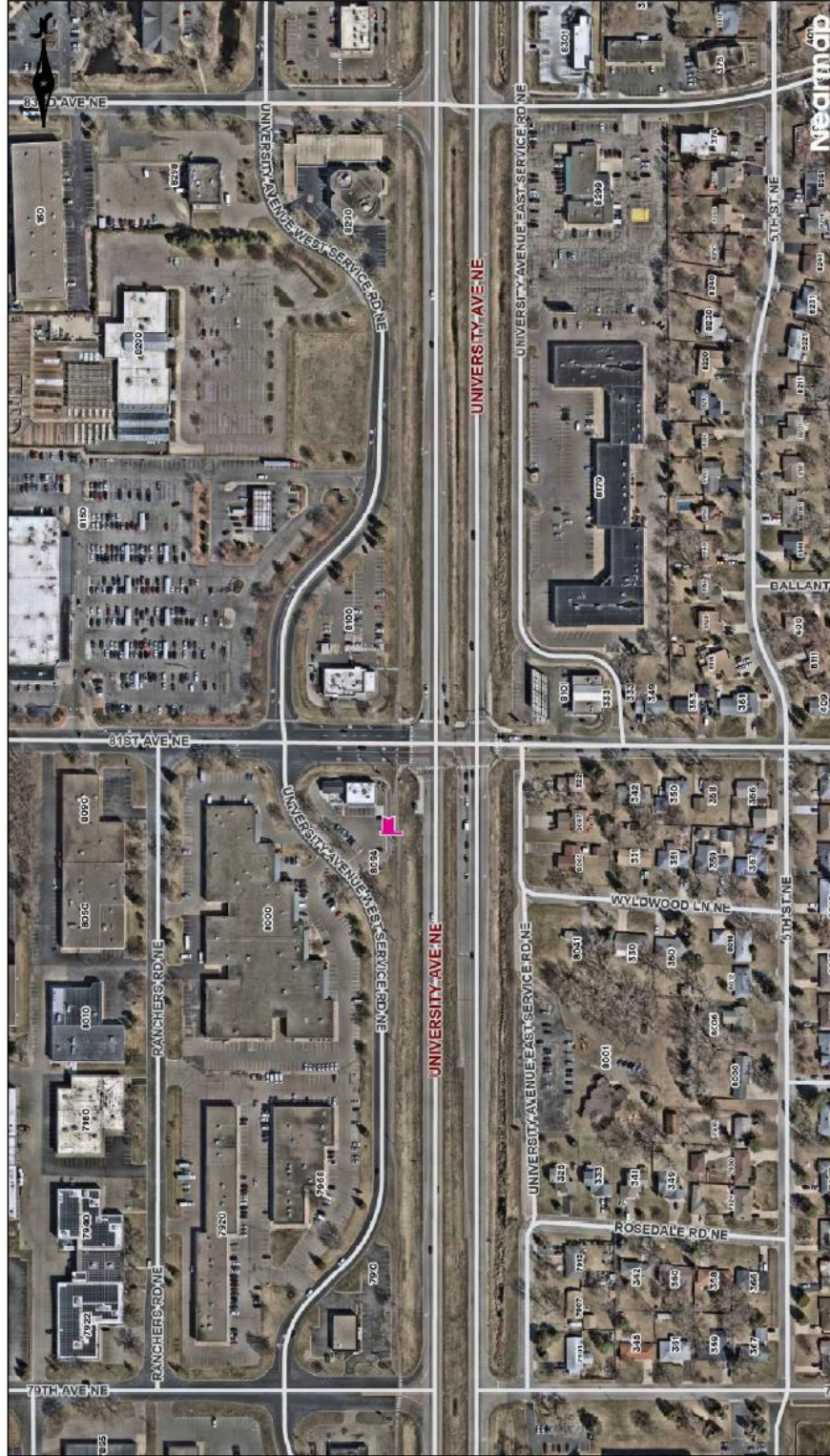
Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines



UTILITY BOX LOCATIONS
4 OF 4

UNIVERSITY LIGHTING PROJECT
JULY 23, 2025





Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines



UTILITY BOX - INSTALLATION INFORMATION

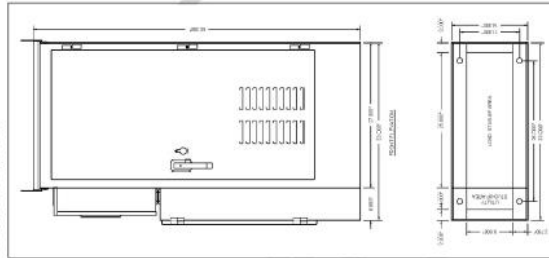
UNIVERSITY LIGHTING PROJECT JULY 23, 2025



16 CABINET DRAWINGS AND SCHEMATICS

All example drawings provided in this section are for informational purposes only.

16.1 Front View L1 and L2 120/240 or 240/480 VAC



Page 25 of 31



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: April 1, 2026
Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Jesslyn Quiram, Engineering Technician
Title: Discussion on VARA Waiver Requirement for MNDOT Partnership

Background

The City of Fridley is working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) on a utility box art wrap pilot program for six utility boxes that are in the MNDOT right of way on University Avenue in Fridley. MNDOT requires that artists sign a Waiver of Moral Rights Pursuant to Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA) Waiver as part of their agreement. Commissioner Frank Sedzielars requested that the Commission include discussion on this item at an upcoming meeting so that the group can fully understand the waiver and answer questions that may arise from artists submitting works for the pilot program

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

1. ART ON TRUNK HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY (VARA WAIVER FORM_FINAL_20-2282186-v1 (1))

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.

WAIVER OF MORAL RIGHTS PURSUANT TO VISUAL ARTISTS RIGHTS ACT (VARA)

I* am the author, creator, designer, and/or developer (“Author”) of the artwork described as follows, created for public purposes and display:

Detailed description of artwork, including description of materials, colors, shapes, identifying features, and distinguishing characteristics (attach additional pages if necessary):

Additional page(s) attached

I understand that the above-described artwork (hereinafter “Artwork”) may be considered a “work of visual art,” as defined in the United States Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. §101. I understand that the Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990 (VARA), 17 U.S.C. §106A(a), confers rights of attribution and integrity to certain authors of works of visual arts. I understand that I, as the Author of this Artwork, may be entitled to these rights of attribution and integrity. As the Author of this Artwork, I am authorized to waive the rights conferred by 17 U.S.C. §106A(a), in accordance with the waiver provision of 17 U.S.C. §106A(e)(1).

WAIVER

I hereby knowingly, voluntarily, and permanently waive my right of integrity related to this Artwork, conferred in the Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990, 17 U.S.C. §106A(a)(3). In waiving this right of integrity, I acknowledge that I specifically waive my right to prevent any distortion, mutilation, modification, or destruction of the Artwork, regardless of the reason for or effect of the distortion, mutilation, modification or destruction. This waiver does not extend to the rights of attribution conferred in 17 U.S.C. §106A(a)(1) or §106A(a)(2).

I understand that the Minnesota Department of Transportation and/or the Art on Trunk Highway Right of Way Applicant (political subdivision, state agency, or tribal government) may make reasonable efforts to notify me of and/or seek my input regarding any potential or certain distortion, mutilation, modification, removal, and/or destruction of the Artwork, including any change of environment, location, or other circumstance that may alter the presentation or interpretation of the Artwork. I acknowledge that any such efforts are a courtesy and are not required by law or otherwise.

 Name of Artist(s)/Architect(s)/Firm

 Date

* In this Waiver, the singular includes the plural.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

17 U.S.C. §101. Definitions

Except as otherwise provided in this title, as used in this title, the following terms and their variant forms mean the following: ...

A “work of visual art” is--

- (1) a painting, drawing, print, or sculpture, existing in a single copy, in a limited edition of 200 copies or fewer that are signed and consecutively numbered by the author, or, in the case of a sculpture, in multiple cast, carved, or fabricated sculptures of 200 or fewer that are consecutively numbered by the author and bear the signature or other identifying mark of the author; or
- (2) a still photographic image produced for exhibition purposes only, existing in a single copy that is signed by the author, or in a limited edition of 200 copies or fewer that are signed and consecutively numbered by the author....

17 U.S.C. §106A(a) - Rights of certain authors to attribution and integrity

Rights of Attribution and Integrity. Subject to section 107 and independent of the exclusive rights provided in section 106, the author of a work of visual art --

- (1) shall have the right -
 - (A) to claim authorship of that work, and
 - (B) to prevent the use of his or her name as the author of any work of visual art which he or she did not create;
- (2) shall have the right to prevent the use of his or her name as the author of the work of visual art in the event of a distortion, mutilation, or other modification of the work which would be prejudicial to his or her honor or reputation; and
- (3) subject to the limitations set forth in section 113(d), shall have the right -
 - (A) to prevent any intentional distortion, mutilation, or other modification of that work which would be prejudicial to his or her honor or reputation, and any intentional distortion, mutilation, or modification of that work is a violation of that right, and
 - (B) to prevent any destruction of a work of recognized stature, and any intentional or grossly negligent destruction of that work is a violation of that right.

17 U.S.C. §106A(e)(1) – Transfer and waiver

The rights conferred by subsection (a) may not be transferred, but those rights may be waived if the author expressly agrees to such waiver in a written instrument signed by the author. Such instrument shall specifically identify the work, and uses of that work, to which the waiver applies, and the waiver shall apply only to the work and uses so identified. In the case of a joint work prepared by two or more authors, a waiver of rights under this paragraph made by one such author waives such rights for all such authors.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: April 1, 2026
Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Jesslyn Quiram, Engineering Technician
Title: Sylvan Hills Community Art Project Update

Background

As part of the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) grant for Sylvan Hills Park, an interpretive public art project may be funded for the site. Inspired by the Sacred Waters, Shared Future initiative, several organizations have created a concept for a public art project that would incorporate community-created tiles into an art piece that celebrates the Mississippi River. Initial discussions were held between MWMO staff, City of Fridley Staff and Creative Flow Art Center to discuss a framework for community engagement and to determine options for artwork. MWMO partnered with artist Jessica Turtle to create several project concepts based on staff input. Currently, staff are completing some estimating on project costs, refining concepts and confirming the scope of community partnerships.

Recommendation

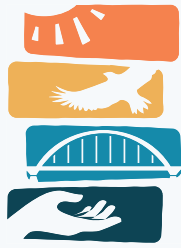
Staff recommends concept design 1 for the Sylvan Hills Public Art Project

Attachments and Other Resources

1. Event One-Pager (2-sided)_FINAL_8.22
2. Mississippi River Bench — Design 1
3. Mississippi River Bench — Design 2
4. Mississippi River Bench — Design 3

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.



SACRED WATER SHARED FUTURE

Register your event and learn more at SacredWaterSharedFuture.org

Embracing our commitment to a healthy river

Sacred Water, Shared Future is a growing movement in the Twin Cities dedicated to the health of the Mississippi River. The campaign celebrates a century of progress and inspires continued action.

1926: A turning point for the river

In 1926, a water quality study identified severe pollution and found only three fish living in nearly 50 miles of the Mississippi River from the Twin Cities to Red Wing, Minnesota. The results confirmed what scientists and residents already suspected: the Mississippi was effectively dead. The study sparked collective action to restore, and eventually protect, this vital waterway and improve the health of the river over the next one hundred years.

2026: Honoring the past, inspiring the future

The Sacred Waters, Shared Future campaign celebrates community, storytelling, education, and conservation through a year-long celebration in 2026. The campaign honors the central role the Mississippi River has played in our region while acknowledging its deep history, sacredness, and resilience. Our hope is that the campaign will inspire collaboration and shared action in 2026, and set the stage for the next 100 years of healing for both the river and the life it supports.

Your role in the centennial

Looking forward, what dreams do you have for the river 100 years from now? How will we - as a movement - value and care for the river? Join us by sharing river centered events, activities, programming, artistic endeavors, and more throughout the 2026 centennial year.

We welcome you and/or your organization to host an event of your own, by featuring any of the following:



Honoring the River's History: The Sacred Water, Shared Future campaign acknowledges the Mississippi River's deep history, including its significance, strength, and past harms. This resonates with people and organizations that understand the importance of historical context and the need to address past injustices.



Focus on Community and Collaboration: The campaign celebrates community power, storytelling, and education, through collaborative action. This appeals to people and organizations that value partnership, engagement, and shared responsibility in river protection.



Commitment to a Healthy River: Sacred Water, Shared Future embraces a collective commitment to a healthy river, focusing on connections, responsibilities, and care. This resonates with organizations whose core mission is environmental stewardship and advocacy for a healthy ecosystem.

Fast Facts & FAQs

Who was involved in the planning process?

This campaign was created by the Sacred Water Shared Future planning team, which is made up of representatives from Capitol Region Watershed District, Freshwater, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, Mississippi Park Connection, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, National Park Service, One Mississippi.

What events have been planned by the campaign organizers?

The Sacred Water Shared Future planning team is not planning events. This campaign has been planned by volunteers and all events will be planned and hosted by partners. The name, theme, logo and other campaign assets will support a broad variety of events.

Who can plan and host campaign events?

We welcome any group or organization that feels a passion for the health of our waterways or a connection to the Mississippi River and its watershed.

What types of events are encouraged?

The types of events are ultimately up to our partners, but we highly encourage river-focused activities that allow for individuals to connect to the water.

Mississippi River Bench — Design 1

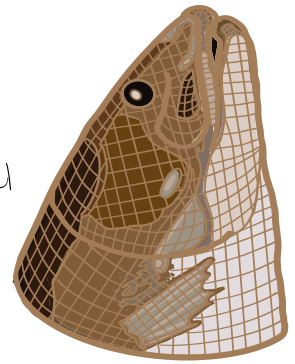
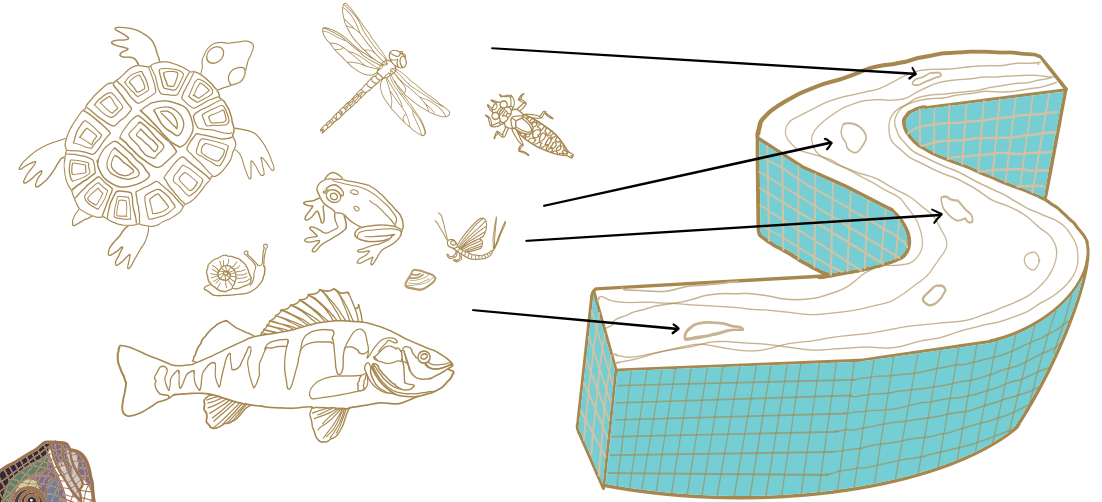
Options:

- * poured cement base → easier landscape management
- * just bench w/ footings under benches & fish heads.
- * Just bench / no fish

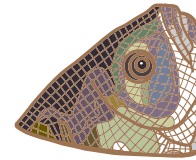
Notes:

- * tumbled tiles - river rock aesthetic & smooth edges
- * Create creatives as individual tiles w/ identification label
- * benches made as individual sections for easier relocation

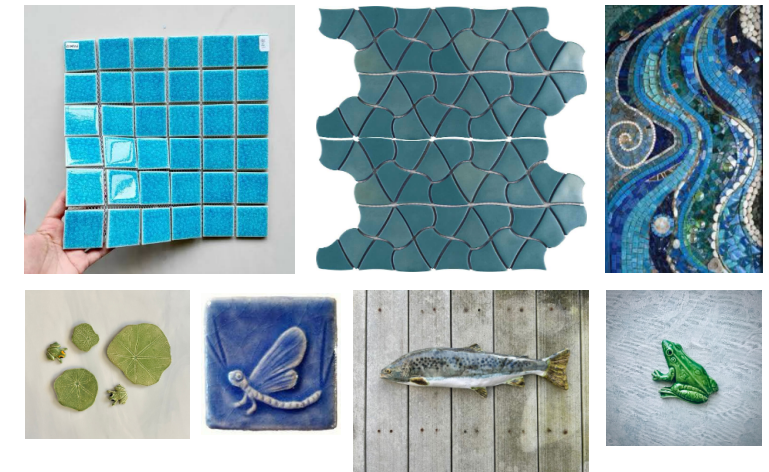
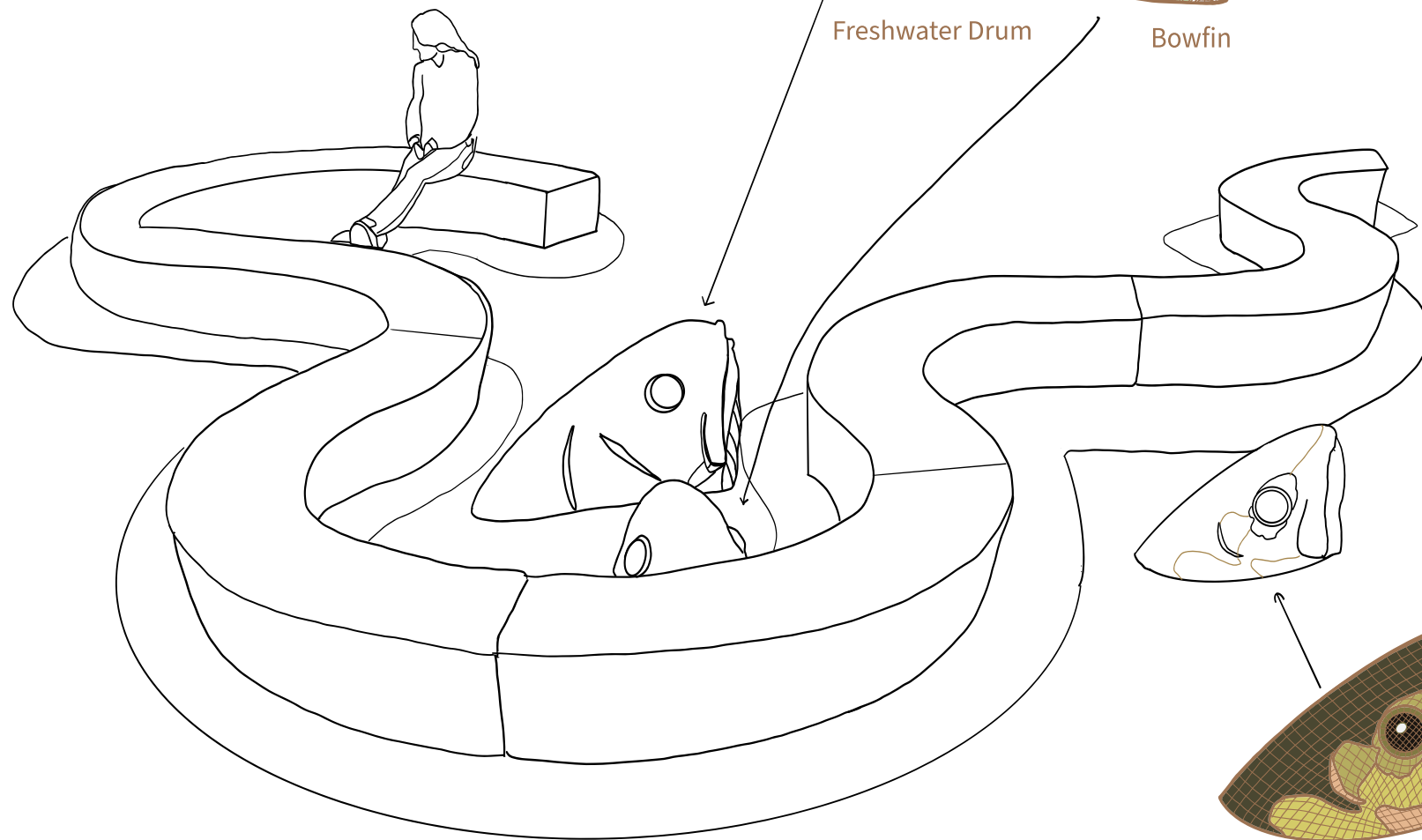
An assortment of river inhabitants



Freshwater Drum



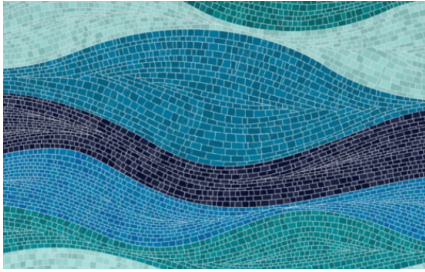
Bowfin



Mississippi River Benches — Design 2

- Options
- * add more over time
 - * adjust narratives to reach education goals

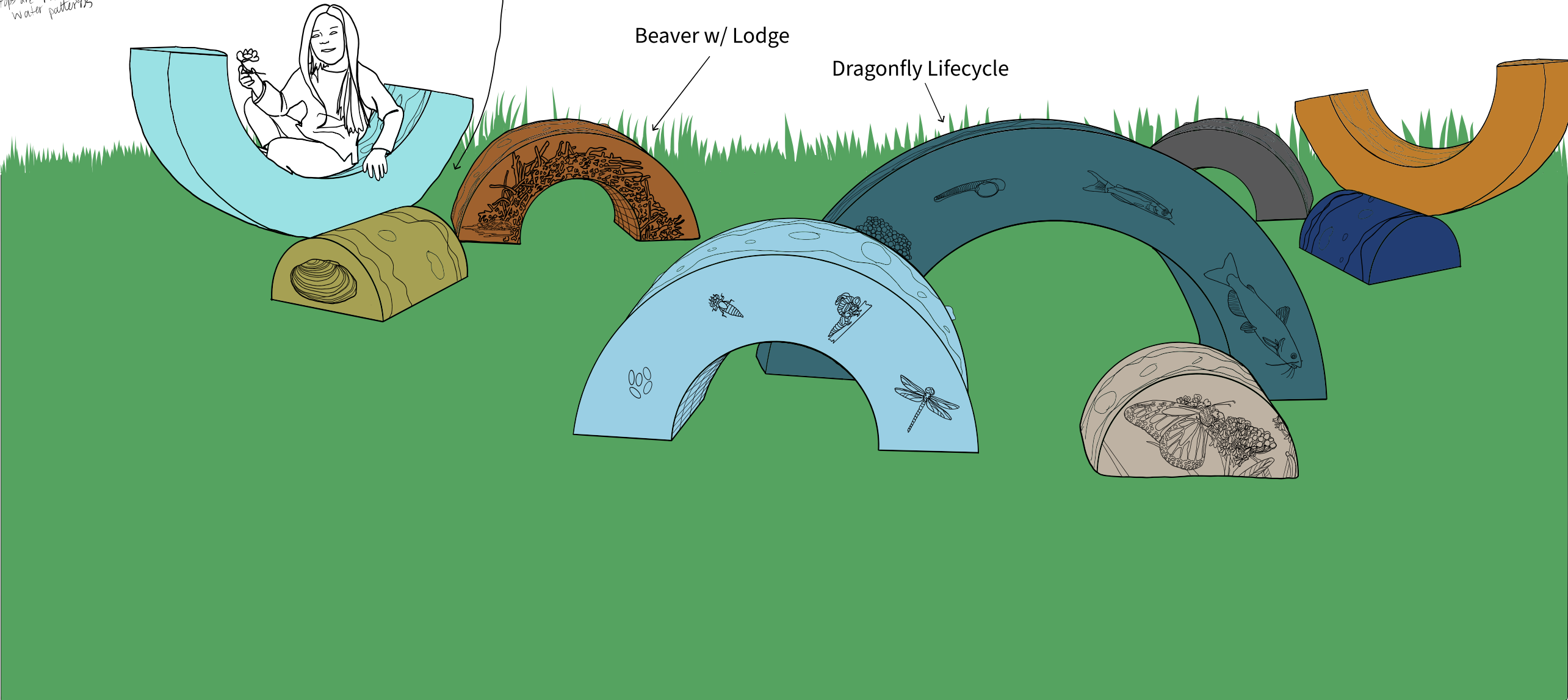
- Notes
- * more landscape cave required
 - * footings and anchor points required
 - * very simple forms for mosaic
 - * consistent aesthetic with simple square colors.
 - * tops are rising water patterns



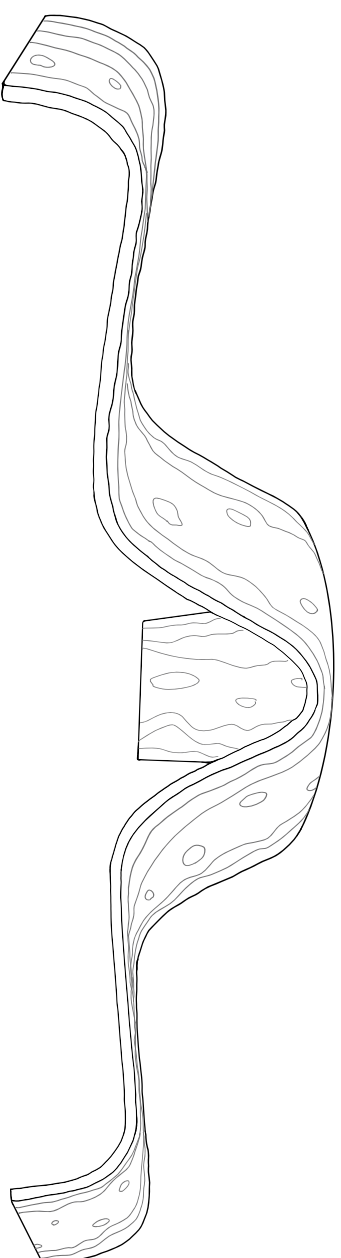
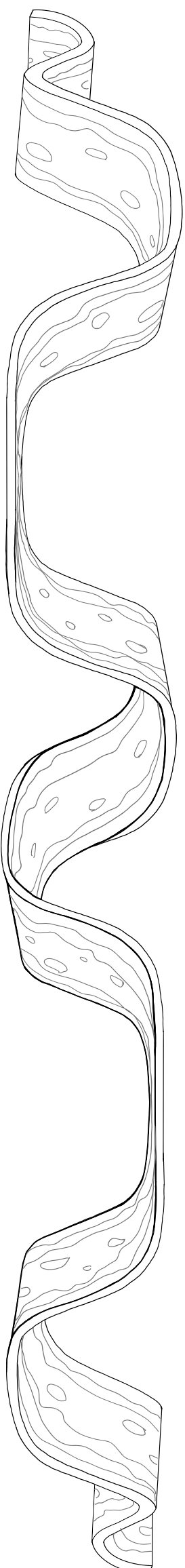
Mussels

Beaver w/ Lodge

Dragonfly Lifecycle



Mississippi River Bench — Design 3



Options:

- design can be scaled in any direction
- smaller versions could be added over time.

Notes:

- + include river plants and animals
- * include language along the bench edge - stamped
- * control color but allow for creative tiles.
- + fun to crawl under and over - include cool discoveries on bottom.





AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: April 1, 2026
Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Jesslyn Quiram, Engineering Technician
Title: Art Trail Site Discussion

Background

The Commission has recommended the ongoing development of an art trail extending from the Fridley City Campus into Locke Park as a priority project. This concept includes primarily art on loan and could also incorporate permanent artwork and can be scaled from several sculptures to a longer art trail including many works of art. A future meeting between the Public Arts Commission, Fridley Creative Arts Foundation and Fridley City Council is being explored to discuss the art trail concept and to create a better understanding of stakeholder groups, goals and the process for funding, designing and approving projects within the Fridley public arts program. Staff will guide discussion with the Commission to look at possible routes and sites for artwork along an art trail.

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

1. Art Trail Concept

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.

Sculpture Walk Concept



A vibrant blend of permanent and changing artwork to create an immersive art trail throughout the Civic Campus and Locke Park.